THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, April 29, 1805.

Curious Particulars of a Nation of White Men, who ſpeak the Welſh Language, and reſide high upon the River Miſſouri, in North America.

[The following is taken from The Kentucky Palladium. It will gratify the curious. The writer is a gentleman of reſpectability, and ſuſtains an high office.]

To the EDITOR of the PALLADIUM.

SIR, *Frankfort, December* 12, 1804.

NO circumſtance relating to the hiſtory of the weſtern country, probably has excited, at different times, more general attention and anxious curioſity, than the opinion that a nation of white men, ſpeaking the Welſh language, reſide high up on the Miſſouri. By ſome the idea is treated as nothing but the ſuggeſtion of bold impoſture and credulity: whilſt others regard it as a fact fully authenticated by Indian teſtimony, and the report of various travellers worthy of credit. The fact is accounted for, they ſay, by recurring to a paſſage in the hiſtory of Great Britain, which relates that ſeveral years before the diſcovery of America by Chriſtopher Columbus, a certain Welch prince embarked from his native country, with a large party of emigrants; that after ſome time a veſſel or two came back with the account that they had diſcovered a country far to the weſtward, and that they ſet ſail again with a freſh reinforcement, and never returned any more. The country which theſe adventurers diſcovered, it has been ſuppoſed, was the continent of North America, and it has been conjectured, that they had landed on this continent ſome where in the Gulph of Mexico, and from thence proceeded

northward, 'till they got out of the reach of the hoſtile natives, and ſeated themſelves in the upper country of Miſſouri. Many accounts accordingly have been publiſhed, within the laſt thirty years, of perſons, who, in conſequence, either by accident or the ardour of curioſity, have made themſelves acquainted with a nation of men on the Miſſouri, poſſeſſing the complexion of Europeans, and the language of Welchmen. Could the fact be well eſtabliſhed, it would afford, perhaps, the moſt ſatisfactory ſolution of the difficulty occaſioned by a view of the various ancient fortifications with which the Ohio country abounds, of any that has ever been offered. Theſe fortifications were evidently never made by the Indians. The Indian art of war preſents nothing of the kind. The probability too is, that the perſons who conſtructed them were, at that time, acquainted with the uſe of iron: the ſituation of thoſe fortifications, which are uniformly in the moſt fertile land of the country, indicates that thoſe who made them were an agricultural people, and the remarkable care and ſkill which which they were executed, afford traits of genius of a people, who relied more on their military ſkill than on their numbers. The growth of the trees upon them is very compatible with the idea, that it is not more than 300 years ago that they were abandoned.

Theſe hints, however, are thrown out rather to excite inquiry, than by way of advancing any decided opinion on the ſubject. Having never met with any perſons who had ſeen theſe white Americans, nor even received their teſtimony near the ſource, I have always entertained conſiderable doubts about the fact. Laſt evening, however, Mr. John Childes, of Jeſſamine county, a gentleman with whom I have been long acquainted, and who is well known to be a man of veracity, communicated a relation to me, which, at all events, appears to merit ſerious attention. After he had related it in converſation, I requeſted him to repeat it, and commit it to writing. It has certainly ſome internal marks of authenticity. The country which is deſcribed was altogether unknown in Virginia, when the relation was given, and was probably very little known to the Shawneſe Indians. Yet the account of it agrees very remarkably with the latter diſcoveries. On the other hand, the ſtory of the large animal, though by no means incredible, has ſomething of the air of fable; and it does not ſatisfactorily appear how the long period which the party were abſent was ſpent, though Indians are, however, ſo much accuſtomed to loiter away their time, that many weeks, and even months, may probably have been ſpent in indolent repoſe.

Without detaining you any more with preliminary remarks, I will proceed to the narration as I received it from Mr. Childes.

Maurice

Maurice Griffith, a native of Wales, which country he left when about ſixteen years of age, was taken priſoner by a party of Shawneſe Indians, about forty years ago, near Voſſes' Fort, on the head of Roanoke river, in Virginia, and carried into the Shawneſe nation. Having ſtaid there about two years and a half, he found that five young men of the tribe had a deſire of attempting to explore the ſources of the Miſſouri. He prevailed upon them to admit him one of the party. They ſet out with ſix good rifles, and ſix pounds of powder a-piece, of which they were of courſe very careful. On reaching the mouth of the Miſſouri, they were ſtruck with the extraordinary appearance of the muddy waters of the Miſſouri, and the clear tranſparent element of the Miſſiſſippi. They ſtaid two or three days amuſing themſelves with a view of this novel ſight: they then determined on the courſe which they ſhould purſue, which happened to be ſo nearly in the courſe of the river, that they frequently came within ſight of it, as they proceeded on their journey. After travelling about thirty days through pretty farming woodland, they came into fine open prairies, on which nothing grew but long luxuriant graſs. There was a ſucceſſion of thoſe varying in ſize, ſome being eight or ten miles acroſs, but one of them ſo long, that it occupied three days to travel through it. In paſſing through this large prairie they were much diſtreſſed for water and proviſions, for they ſaw neither beaſt nor bird, and though there was an abundance of ſalt ſprings, freſh water was very ſcarce. In one of theſe prairies, the ſalt ſprings ran into ſmall ponds, in which, as the weather was hot, the water had ſunk, and left the edges of the ponds ſo covered with ſalt, that they fully ſupplied themſelves with that article, and might eaſily have collected buſhels of it. As they were travelling through the prairies, they had likewiſe the good fortune to kill an animal, which was nine or ten feet high, and a bulk proportioned to his height. They had ſeen two of the ſame ſpecies before, and they ſaw four of them afterwards. They were ſwift footed, and they had neither tuſks nor horns. After they had paſſed through the long prairie, they made it a rule never to enter on one which they could not ſee acroſs, 'till they had ſupplied themſelves with a ſufficiency of jerked veniſon to laſt ſeveral days.—After having travelled a conſiderable time through the prairies, they came to very extenſive lead mines, where they melted the ore, and furniſhed themſelves with what lead they wanted. They afterwards came to two copper mines, one of which was three miles through, and in ſeveral places they met with rocks of copper as large as houſes.

When about fifteen days journey from the ſecond copper mine, they came in ſight of white mountains, which, though in the heat of ſummer, appeared to them to be covered with ſnow. The ſight naturally excited conſiderable aſtoniſhment, but on

their approaching the mountains, they diſcovered, that, inſtead of ſnow, they were covered with immenſe bodies of white ſand. They had, in the mean time, paſſed through about ten nations of Indians, from whom they received very friendly treatment. It was the practice of the party to exerciſe the office of ſpokeſmen in rotation; and when the language of any nation through which they paſſed was unknown to them, it was the duty of the ſpokeſman, a duty in which others never interfere, to convey their meaning by appropriate ſigns.

The labour of travelling through the deep ſands of the mountains was exceſſive, but at length they relieved themſelves of this difficulty by following the courſe of a ſhallow river, the bottom of which being level, they made their way to the top of the mountains with tolerable convenience.

After paſſing the mountains they entered a fine tract of land, which having travelled through for ſeveral days, they accidentally met with three white men in the Indian dreſs. Griffith immediately underſtood their language, as it was pure Welch, though they occaſionally made uſe of a few words with which he was not acquainted; however, as it happened to be the turn of one of his companions to act as ſpokeſman, or interpreter, he preſerved a profound ſilence, and never gave them any intimation that he underſtood the language of their new companions.

After proceeding with them four or five days journey, they came to the village of theſe white men, where they found that the whole nation were of the ſame colour, having all the European complexion. The three men took them through their village for about the ſpace of fifteen miles, when they came to the council-houſe, at which an aſſembly of the king and chief men of the nation was held. The council laſted three days, and as the ſtrangers were not ſuppoſed to be acquainted with their language, they were ſuffered to be preſent at their deliberations. The great queſtion before the council was, what conduct ſhould be obſerved towards the ſtrangers. From their fire-arms, their knives, and their tomahawks, it was concluded they were a warlike people; it was conceived they were ſent to look out a country for their nation, that if they were ſuffered to return they might expect a body of powerful invaders, but that, if theſe ſix men were put death, nothing would be known of their country, and they ſhould ſtill enjoy their poſſeſſions in ſecurity. It was finally determined that they ſhould be put to death. Griffith then thought that it was time for him to ſpeak. He addreſſed the council in the Welſh language. He informed them that they had not been ſent by any nation: that they were actuated merely by private curioſity, they had no hoſtile intentions: that it was their wiſh to trace the Miſſouri to its ſource, and that they ſhould return to their country ſatisfied with the diſcoveries they had

had made, without any wiſh to diſturb the repoſe of their new acquaintances. An inſtant aſtoniſhment glowed in the countenance not only of the council but of his Shawneſe companions, who clearly ſaw he was underſtood by the people of the country. Full confidence was at once given to his declarations; the king advanced and gave him his hand. They abandoned the deſign of putting him and his companions to death, and from that moment treated them with the utmoſt friendſhip. Griffith and the Shawneſe continued eight months in the nation, but were deterred from proſecuting their reſearches up the Miſſouri, by the advice of the people of the country, who informed them that they had gone a twelvemonths journey up the river, but found it as large there as it was in their own country. As to the hiſtory of the people, he could learn nothing ſatisfactory. The only account that they could give was that their forefathers had come up the river from a very diſtant country. They had no books, no records, no writings.

They intermixed with no other people by marriage: there was not a dark ſkinned man in the nation. Their numbers were very conſiderable. There was a conſiderable range of ſettlements on the river for fifty miles, and there were, within this ſpace, three large water courſes, which fell into the Miſſouri, on the banks of each of which likewiſe they were ſettled. He ſuppoſed there muſt be 50,000 men in the nation capable of bearing arms. Their clothing was ſkins well dreſſed. Their houſes were made of upright poſts, and the bark of trees. The only implements they had to cut them with were ſtone tomahawks. They had no iron: their arms were bows and arrows. They had ſome ſilver, which had been hammered with ſtones into coarſe ornaments, but it did not appear to be pure. They had neither horſes, cattle, ſheep, hogs, nor any domeſtic or tame animals. They lived by hunting. He ſaid nothing about their religion.

Griffith and his companions had ſome large iron tomahawks with them. With theſe they cut down a tree, and prepared a canoe to return home in: but their tomahawks were ſo great a curioſity, and the people of the country were ſo eager to handle them, that their canoe was completed with very little labour. When this work was accompliſhed, they propoſed to leave their new friends; Griffith, however, having promiſed to viſit them again. They deſcended the river with conſiderable ſpeed, but amidſt frequent dangers from the rapidity of the current, particularly when paſſing through the White Mountains. When they reached the Shawneſe nation, they had been abſent about two years and a half.

Griffith ſuppoſed that when they travelled, they went at the rate of about fifteen miles a day. He ſtaid but a few months with the Indians after their return, as a favourable opportunity

offered

offered itſelf to him to reach his friends in Virginia. He came with a hunting party of Indians to the head waters of Coal River, which runs into New River, not far above the falls. There he left the Shawneſe, and eaſily reached the ſettlements on the Roanoke. Mr. Childes knew him before he was taken priſoner, and ſaw him a few days after his return, when he narrated to him the preceding circumſtances; Griffith was univerſally regarded as a ſteady, honeſt man, and a man of veracity. Mr. Childes has placed the utmoſt confidence in his account of himſelf and his travellers, and has no more doubt of the truth of his relation, than if he had ſeen the whole himſelf. Whether Griffith be ſtill alive or not he does not know.

Whether his ideas be correct or not, we ſhall probably have a better opportunity of judging on the return of Captains Lewis and Clark, who, though they may not penetrate as far as Griffith alledged that he had done, will probably learn enough of the country to enable us to determine whether the account given by Griffith be fiction or truth.

I am, Sir, your humble ſervant,
HARRY TOULMIN.

INTERESTING TRIAL.

MRS. MEECHAM *v.* MESSRS. ATTWOOD AND BARKER.

AT Warwick ſpring aſſizes, an action at law, which has excited conſiderable intereſt, was commenced by Mrs. Meecham, plaintiff, as adminiſtratrix, againſt Meſſrs. Attwood and Barker, aſſignees under a commiſſion of bankruptcy, iſſued forth againſt the late Mr. John Randolph Meecham, of Birmingham, in order to ſet aſide the ſaid commiſſion.

It appeared in evidence, that the deceaſed, lately an eminent attorney of Birmingham, a young man of reſpectable connections, and very much eſteemed, left home on the 3d of November laſt, in evident perturbation of mind, ariſing from the embarraſſment of his circumſtances, and acute reflections on his own imprudence. He was conſequently declared a bankrupt, on the 15th of November, and on the 12th of December his body was found in Perry Brook. The queſtion to be decided was, whether the effects of the deceaſed ſhould be diſtributed under the commiſſion of bankrupt, or whether the plaintiff, his widow, was entitled to the diſtribution, by virtue of letters of adminiſtration granted to her, on the preſumption that he died previouſly to the commiſſion of bankrupt being dealt in.

As the deceaſed was never ſeen after he left his home, the cauſe turned principally on the evidence of the celebrated Dr. Gibbs, of Bath, and ſeveral other medical gentlemen of Birmingham, who fully convinced the jury and the court, that the whole period of the abſence of the deceaſed muſt have been required to produce the change apparent in his body when found; conſequently the commiſſion became a nullity, and the plaintiff recovers, by the verdict, the amount of the deceaſed's effects, to be diſtributed in the due courſe of adminiſtration.

Ill Effects of the Gaming of Gentlemen of Landed Property in London on their Tenants in the Country.

To the PRINTER,

SIR,

I Hope you will give a place to the following article in your pleaſing publication. It is with regret I have to inform you, that I and many of my neighbours have been ſuddenly thrown into great confuſion. We have lived for many years under a family of the firſt repute as commoners in this country, and our late worthy landlord did not raiſe the rent of our farms for upwards of thirty years. He reſolved not to do ſo as long as he lived. He was buried in the vault of his anceſtors laſt March was two years; his ſon and heir having been of age eight months. Our young and new landlord raiſed our rents three ſhillings in the pound in the firſt year of his poſſeſſion, and this we all complied with very chearfully as being nothing unreaſonable, and we went on as proſperouſly as ever. Our young 'ſquire ſold the family poſt-chaiſe laſt Chriſtmas, and ſet up a curricle in its ſtead, with two out-riders.

He ſet off to London the third day of the new year, as we imagined, to be preſent at the birth-day of our amiable queen, and we heard no more of him until the 8th of this preſent month, when the ſteward called us all together, and informed us, that we we muſt pay another three ſhillings in the pound rent if we meant to continue in our farms; and that was not all, for we were told, we muſt prepare for paying the whole year's rent next pay-day, having hitherto only paid one half year under another.

After we had in ſome degree overcome the ſhock of this information, and the company ſeeming deſirous I ſhould ſay ſomething in behalf of the whole, as our caſes were ſo exactly ſimilar, I aſked where his honour had been to learn this ſevere diſcipline (for he is our major-commandant): the ſteward with a look of ſympathy towards us, and indignation elſewhere, replied with a loud voice, "to Hell." We all ſtarted at this phraſe,

phraſe, not only as ſome of us were of a religious caſt and character, but alſo as the ſteward himſelf was conſidered a grave ſober-minded man, and of chaſte and mild diſcourſe. Seeing us ſtill in amazement, he repeated, in as abrupt a tone as before, "to Hell." Upon this I replied, "No, that is impoſſible, for no one who ever went there, came back again." "But my maſter is come back," rejoined he, "and twelve thouſand pounds worſe than he went." Upon an explanation, which you may ſuppoſe we were not long without demanding, we learnt ſure enough that the young gentleman had gone into a gaming-houſe, ſo named, as it richly deſerves, and that among a ſet of ſharpers he loſt four thouſand the firſt night, and to take his revenge, he was plundered of double the ſum the next: the loſs of his whole eſtate, it ſeems, was prevented by a miracle, but to make up for this ſum, which he has been robbed of, his whole tenantry muſt be rack-rented, and his character accordingly wounded, and by many deſpiſed. I muſt decline being more minute on this particular occurrence, leſt a too pointed deſcription may convert a lamentable occurrence into a completely deſperate caſe. I will, therefore, conclude my letter with a few general remarks on the fatal effects of gaming: firſt premiſing, that as we make uſe of the ſtocks in the country to ſet thoſe cutpurſes and cheats in, who play off their knaviſh tricks, ſo it is a pity, they do not in London appropriate the pillory to ſome uſeful purpoſe with theſe gentlemen, who have thus defrauded our unſuſpecting young lord of the manor. I am afraid, the gentlemen of the town look upon gaming only as an idle and weak thing, at the worſt; but we of the country conſider it as a great ſin. For my own part, I am perſuaded it is a very wicked thing, for it may eaſily convert a good man into a very bad one. 'Till this adventure the 'ſquire was naturally inclined to do all the good he could, and was deſirous of enjoying a fair name among his tenantry and neighbours; now, when his old and faithful ſteward tells him the harm he is doing his farmers, and the harſh things they will ſay of him, he only ſays peremptorily, he *muſt* have the money, let them ſay what they will.

Every man who games, Mr. Editor, is liable to fall in with cheats, and experience the fate of our young gentleman. Should he even win money he loſes his character, which is of more value than his winnings. There was never a gameſter from the beginning of the world eſteemed for being ſuch. Gaming deſtroys character, ruins fortune, and ſpoils the temper. To pay gaming debts, other juſt and more reaſonable ones muſt be left undiſcharged: but, Sir, when I reflect on the many good and charitable offices our 'ſquire might have performed, with a fourth part of what he has loſt, I am not maſter of cool reaſon to proceed enumerating the evils which may be ſeen to grow out of the vice of gaming.

I will therefore conclude myſelf your oppreſſed humble ſervant,

A YEOMAN.

Exon, February 20, 1805.

Pleaſing Inſtance of the good Effects of conciliatory Treatment on the Populace of Ireland.

To the PRINTER,

SIR, *Eton, January* 25, 1805.

WHILST we are exploring the interior of far diſtant countries, and carrying the arts of civilization among the rudeſt nations, it is ſingular we do not commence our plans of amelioration at home, where there is ſo wide a field for experiment, and where ſucceſs muſt be a conſequence of the attempt. In Ireland, for inſtance, how little is the true character of its people underſtood! how faulty are the ſteps of its governors! Had the latter been more mild, the former had been more loyal. Yet there is one trait in the hiſtory of theſe times, which, like the green oaris in the mighty deſert, affords refreſhment to the heart, and proves that in mercy there is wiſdom. It is the conduct of the dean of Kilfenora to his pariſhioners.

This gentleman has the living of Callan, one of the largeſt in Ireland. When the rebellion broke out, he had but juſt come to reſide; and he found all the peaſantry in the neighbourhood, as well as every other peaſant in the country, deeply engaged in inſurrection. By every kindneſs in his power, by perſuaſion, but moſt powerfully by civility to the meaneſt labourer, he gradually inſpired them with confidence and eſteem: he convinced them of the ſmall hope and great riſk of their enterprize; he aſſured them not only of juſt but reſpectful uſage; finally, he gained the friendſhip of their prieſt. In one day ſix hundred rebels came to his houſe, and ſurrendered their arms. Had theſe deluded people gone in the ſame manner to moſt other gentlemen, they would have been ſtrictly examined reſpecting their treaſonable practices: would have been loaded with taunts and reproaches for the paſt, and threats for the future; and would have found ſo little temptation to return to their old habits of life, that, in a few days, half of them would have again joined the rebels.

Inſtead of this conduct, the dean aſſembled the party on his lawn, ſpread tables for the whole ſix hundred, entertained them with the true magnificence of Iriſh hoſpitality, converſed with them on indifferent ſubjects, and made the adminiſtering the oath of allegiance a kind of fête, rather than an emblem of victo-

rious oppreſſion. What has been the conſequence? ever ſince that day (though the rebellion continued long after, and many inſurrections have ſucceeded,) no one of thoſe reclaimed rebels have ever been ſuſpected of diſloyalty; and by the continuance of the ſame humane and enlightened conduct, there is not a man in Ireland ſleeps half ſo ſecurely in his bed, as the good dean of Kilfenora; there is not a pariſh in Ireland, that can be called well affected, when compared with Callan.

Though a clergyman, a proteſtant, and an Engliſhman, the dean has received that tribute of the poor man's gratitude, that memorial of the heart, which is grateful even to the proud and wealthy.—On his return from England, two years ago, the day was kept as a feſtival throughout the whole country; crowds thronged the roads, and greeted him with huzzas, whilſt all the mountains around blazed with bonfires. It ſeems ſtrange, that many Iriſh gentlemen with equal earneſtneſs to cultivate the affections of the peaſantry, yet meet not with the ſame ſucceſs. The reaſon is this, they do not, as gentlemen, in the beſt ſenſe of the word, nor ever will, treat their inferiors, whatever their ſtation, with civility and affability. This is the real ſecret of conciliating the Iriſh peaſantry; it is not your money, or your protection, that will win their hearts, but the reſpectful kindneſs, which removes from their minds the painful ſenſe of degradation.

An Iriſh 'ſquire, let his intentions be ever ſo good, deſtroys the effect of obligations by his manner of conferring them. But it is in vain to bid them reform their manners towards the peaſantry; manners are not to be moulded by wiſhes, they muſt be formed by circumſtances. Make the gentry, in ſome meaſure, dependant on the peaſantry; give to the peaſantry more political importance, and you need not be afraid that they will be treated with inſolence.

Your's, &c.

VERITAS.

On the improving Navigation of the Ohio and the Miſſiſſippi.

[From Michaux's Travels in America.]

THE navigation of the Ohio and the Miſſiſſippi is ſo much in uſe, that the diſtance from Pittſburgh to New Orleans is now known with great preciſion: it is fixed at 2100 miles. The carrying boats generally require, in the ſpring from 45 to 50 days to perform this paſſage, which two or three perſons, in a light veſſel (pirogue) can accompliſh in 20 or 25 days.

It

It is not perhaps known to many people in Europe, that veſſels of a conſiderable tonnage are built at Pittſburgh, and on the Ohio. One of the principal dock yards is on the Mononga-hela, 200 toiſes from the laſt houſes in the town. The timbers employed in their conſtruction are the white oak, *quercus alba;* the red oak, *quercus ruba;* the black oak, *quercus tinctoria;* a ſpecies of walnut, *juglans pignut;* the cluſter cherry-tree, *ceraſus virginiani;* and a ſpecies of pine, which is uſed for maſts, and alſo for ſuch parts of the veſſel as require a lighter wood. All theſe woods being in the vicinity, the expences of conſtruction are leſs conſiderable than in the ports of the Atlantic ſtates. The cordage is fabricated at Redſtone, or at Lexington, where two good rope-walks are eſtabliſhed, which alſo ſupply the ſhips built at Marietta and Louiſville. When I was at Pittſburgh, in July, 1802, there was a three-maſted veſſel on the ſtocks, of 250 tons burthen, and a galliot of 90, which were nearly finiſhed. Theſe veſſels were to go down to New Orleans in the following ſpring, with a cargo of the productions of the country; and, before reaching the ocean, would make a voyage of near 2200 miles. There is not a doubt but that, hereafter, veſſels will be conſtructed two hundred leagues above the mouth of the Miſſouri, fifty above that of the Illinois river, and alſo in the Miſſiſſippi, two hundred leagues above the place where theſe rivers join it: that is to ſay, ſix hundred and fifty leagues from the ſea, for in the ſpaces mentioned, their depths are as great as that of the Ohio at Pittſburgh, and it would be wrong to ſuppoſe, that in time, the vaſt countries watered by theſe rivers will not be ſufficiently populous to execute ſuch enterpriſes.

The rapid population of the three new weſtern ſtates, in circumſtances infinitely leſs favourable, warrant this opinion. Theſe ſtates, in which, thirty years ago, there were ſcarcely three thouſand inhabitants, have at preſent more than four hundred thouſand; and among all the plantations, which on the roads, are ſeldom more than four or five miles aſunder, it is very uncommon to find one, even of the moſt flouriſhing, of which the proprietor may not be aſked, with confidence, from whence he emigrated, or, in the trivial language of the Americans, "From what part of the world are you come?" as if theſe weſt and fertile regions were intended to be the point of concentration, and common country of all the inhabitants of the globe. Now, if we conſider theſe aſtoniſhing and rapid ameliorations, what ideas ſhall we not form of the high degree of proſperity to which theſe weſtern countries may attain, and of the great increaſe which the commerce, population, and culture of this country will acquire, by the union of Louiſiana to the American territory?

The name of rivers-bottoms, or flat-bottoms, is given to thoſe low lands, covered with wood, lying between the foot of theſe hills and the ſides of the river, and which are ſometimes five or ſix miles broad. The greater part of the large and ſmall rivers running into the Ohio have alſo rivers bottoms which, as well as thoſe of that river, are of eaſy culture; but nothing equals the fertility of the ſides of the Ohio. The ſoil is a true vegetable earth, produced by the thick bed of leaves which are annually collected on the ground, and ſoon converted into mould by the humidity prevalent in theſe ſequeſtered foreſts: but a conſiderable addition to the thickneſs of theſe ſucceſſive beds of vegetable earth ariſes from the trunks of enormous trees deſtroyed by age, with whoſe ſtumps the ſurface of the ſoil is every where loaded, and which decay very rapidly. In more than a thouſand places of the territory I have paſſed over, at different periods, in North America, I do not recollect to have ſeen one which can be compared to this in the vegetative power of its foreſts. The beſt lands in Kentucky, and in that part of Tenneſſee, ſituated beyond Cumberland Mountains, yield very abundant harveſts, but there the trees do not attain a bulk or an elevation comparable to thoſe on the banks of the Ohio. Thirty-ſix miles before reaching Marietta, we ſtopped with a perſon who lives on the right bank: at about fifty paces from his houſe he ſhowed us a plane-tree, *platanus occidentalis*, of which the trunk was ſwelled to a prodigious ſize at a height of two feet: we meaſured it four feet above the ſurface of the ground, and found it to be forty-ſeven feet in circumference. It appeared to keep the ſame dimenſions to the height of 15 or 20 feet, then it divided into ſeveral branches of a proportional thickneſs. No external appearance led to a belief that the tree was hollow, and I examined this as much as I could by ſtriking it with a large ſtick in ſeveral places. Our hoſt offered, if we would paſs the day with him, to ſhow us others as large in different parts of the wood, two or three miles from the river.

At the time of my being at Marietta, General St. Clair was governor of the ſtate of the Ohio, a ſituation which he has held from the admiſſion of the ſtate into the union. In his journey from Pittſburgh to Chillicothe, his excellency ſtopped at the tavern where I lodged; but as he travelled in an old chaiſe and without a ſervant, he did not at firſt attract my attention. In the United States, the men who are called by the wiſhes of their fellow citizens to exerciſe theſe important functions, do not, in any reſpect, change their manners; they continue to reſide in their own houſes, and to live as ſimple individuals, without ſhowing more oſtentation or entering into greater expence. The emoluments attached to this office vary in each ſtate: South Carolina, one of the richeſt ſtates of the union, give its governor

4280 piaſters, while the governor of Kentucky does not receive more than 12 or 1500.

Account of the new charitable Inſtitution, called the Dublin Repoſitory.

A Charitable inſtitution, under the name of the Dublin Repoſitory, (on a plan ſimilar to thoſe of Mancheſter and other towns in England) has been eſtabliſhed in Dublin, under the immediate patronage of the counteſs of Hardwicke. It is aided by the ſubſcriptions of ſome of the firſt characters in Ireland, many of whom not only contribute to, but act as receivers for it. The rules and regulations adopted in the infant inſtitution are as follow :—the benefits ariſing from inſtitutions of this nature are too generally known to render any enumeration of them neceſſary. One common outline applies, with little variation, to all ; and upon public favour, and private, regular, ſuperintending perſeverance, do all entirely depend for their utility and ſupport. The firmeſt reliance may be placed on the ſteady and uniform application of the ladies who have undertaken the direction of the Dublin Repoſitory, and alſo on the civility and attention of a reſpectable and well-educated female, who is to conduct the ſale. Once in every month the governeſſes will meet to ſettle the accounts, and to inſpect and regulate the whole concern ; and on one day in each week two of them will, in rotation, attend, to receive and pay for work, to reject ſuch as is unſuitable, or improperly done, and to examine into every particular of internal arrangement : on which day the ſale-room will be ſhut. The hours of ſale will be from eleven 'till four.

To every article ſent into the repoſitory a ticket muſt be affixed, on which ſhall be written the price at which the owner purpoſes to ſell it, and the ſignature or initials by which it is to be diſtinguiſhed. In order to prevent even the appearance of abuſe, all ſuch ladies as have no motives for wiſhing to conceal their names, will be expected to deſignate the object for which their charitable exertions are intended ; and, whenever practicable, to ſend the perſons whom they mean to benefit to receive the produce of the ſale of their work. Only one penny in the ſhilling ſhall be deducted from the price of each article ſold. No article ſhall be admitted into the repoſitory the price of which is not moderate, and great pains will be taken to have every thing in it either uſeful or faſhionable.

To encourage the manufacture of ſtraw-plait in this country, is a matter of conſiderable importance. The repoſitory offers an eligible mode of diſpoſing of all wrought in charity ſchools or

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by individuals, either in the plait or made up into bonnets. Another object with the governeſſes will be to provide materials for induſtry for many unfortunate females, who, in a ſtate of indigence, are able and willing to work, yet might ſtarve before they could otherwiſe obtain the means of employment; ſtrict enquiry will, however, be made into the characters of ſuch, and ſome ſatisfactory recommendation or ſecurity required. In certain caſes, a part of the price of the article will be advanced upon the depoſit of it in the ſale-room.

The annual ſubſcription for each perſon is not to exceed half a guinea, but donations to any amount will moſt thankfully be received. A fund thus raiſed will be requiſite to pay for apartments in a central ſituation, to ſecure an adequate ſalary to a reſpectable conductreſs, to admit the propoſed plan of relieving ſome diſtreſſed females, and to defray other incidental expences. Should the generoſity of the public furniſh a ſupply beyond the unavoidable expenditure of this inſtitution, the ſurplus ſhall be faithfully appropriated either to a wider diffuſion of its advantages, or for the combining with it ſome ſcheme whereby miſery may be alleviated, and induſtry promoted.

Deſcription of the Manner in which Paſſion Week is obſerved at Vienna, and of the Cathedral of St. Stephen in that City.

[From an Itinerary from London to Conſtantinople.]

IT being the holy week, my attention was attracted to a proceſſion of penitents round the area of the great church of St. Stephen. They were all men, habited in gowns of coarſe brown canvas, with hoods and maſques of the ſame; having only ſmall holes cut for the eyes and mouth. Some bore heavy croſſes of wood; while others inflicted on their own naked ſhoulders the ſevereſt flagellation. Thoſe who were leaſt zealous walked bare-foot only. I had conſidered theſe devotees as Franciſcans of the ſtricter order; but was aſſured, that among them might have been found many of the firſt rank in ſociety, who ſubmitted to ſuch a penance, as the only means of procuring abſolution.

The cathedral of St. Stephen is a very magnificent edifice. It is one of the moſt ſuperb ſpecimens of the Gothic ſchool of architecture on the continent, during the fourteenth century. The ground-plan is very extenſive, and has not been completed; for one of the great towers having been left unfiniſhed, has been patched up by the bad taſte of a later age, with a heavy turret; the other is of a very ſingular form, and 465 feet in height. From the baſe to the point, it appears to be gradually ſpiral, and

cluſtered with tiers of canopies, finials, and pedeſtals, to the very ſummit, in the greateſt profuſion. The baſe forms a grand portal. Notwithſtanding, the elevation has no effect of beauty; as the roofs are ſo diſproportionately lofty, and rendered gariſh to the view by being covered with coloured tiles, placed in capricious forms, like a teſſellated pavement. The attached chapels are numerous. On the ſide neareſt the church, the tower is regular, with a diviſion where the ſteeple riſes; for the buttreſſes being incorporated with the other building, produce an effect of infinite ornament, compoſed of ſmall particles. The nave and choir ſhare this extraordinary embelliſhment, externally; but within are rendered ſombrous and gloomy by ſuperfluity and want of taſte. Againſt the pillars of the nave are ſhrines of the moſt elaborate workmanſhip, with effigies not leſs than the life; and they are moſt unſuitably crouded with altars of gilding and gaudy colours. The walls are literally lined with paintings; but I ſhould not ſelect more than two of them as meriting obſervation. Theſe are the crucifixion and ſepulture of Chriſt. The whole interior but ill accords with the ſobriety of the Engliſh eye; nor is it eaſily reconciled to a total deficiency of ſimplicity and neatneſs. Selection of ornament in no inſtance of eccleſiaſtical architecture that I have ſeen in Germany, has been thought worthy of the ſlighteſt attention. To amaſs, rather than to arrange, has been the object of thoſe who have had the charge of ſtructures dedicated to divine ſervice.

Were it allowable to weed this cathedral of all its exuberances, and reduce it to the ſimplicity of a ſelf-ſtone colour, St. Stephen's might vie with the ſuperior Engliſh cathedrals; at leaſt, it would become one of the moſt elegant examples of Gothic architecture on the continent.

I was preſent during the ſolemn maſs on Eaſter eve. The ſervice of the "Tenebræ" was extremely pleaſing, and the choir full and harmonious. In a gallery above the altar, incloſed with lattices, the empreſs attended. Cardinal Migazzi, who had juſt completed his eightieth year, officiated, dreſſed in his robes of ſcarlet, and was a venerable old man, of a very dignified appearance. He was confeſſor to the late Empreſs Maria Thereſa, whoſe bigotry influenced every action of her life; is ſuppoſed to have adviſed the ineffectual viſit of Pius VI. and was the ſtrenuous opponent of the Emperor Joſeph, in his reſolution of ſuppreſſing the monaſteries in Flanders. As the rival of Prince Kaunitz, his political hiſtory is well known. The cathedral of St. Stephen has been mentioned as the moſt perfect inſtance of German Gothic. With that of Straſburg, the compariſon between the towers is the more obvious; and it would be difficult to decide their claims. The Gothic ſtyle in France is ſpecifically different, in as great a degree as that peculiar to England;

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St. Stephen's, therefore, cannot be more accurately compared with the cathedral of Rheims or Rouen, than thoſe of York or Lincoln.

ANECDOTES *of* GENERAL PREVOST.

THIS general is the ſon of that excellent officer, General Prevoſt, of the 60th regiment, who ſo gallantly defended Savannah, during the American war, againſt the repeated attacks of Count D'Eſtaign, at the head of his invincible grenadiers of France (as he vain gloriouſly termed them) and finally beat him off. In conſidering every thing that was done by the Britiſh in that war, the defence of Savannah (almoſt deſtitute of fortifications) is perhaps the only one deſerving praiſe. General Prevoſt was always looked upon as one of our beſt officers, but this added greatly to his fame, and it is ſaid, he at that time modeſtly refuſed a red riband offered to him by Lord North, ſaying—"his poor ſervices did not entitle him to ſo great an honour, but if his lordſhip thought otherwiſe, all he wiſhed for was, ſome proviſion made for his family." It perhaps will be neceſſary to remark, that he was not *a money making man*. The family, however, never got a penſion. The general died ſhortly after the concluſion of that war. His widow ſtill ſurvives. The preſent general was a ſubaltern and captain in the 25th foot, and ſerved with it in Gibraltar under the gallant veteran Elliot, who took much notice of him. From that corps he got the majority of the 3d battalion of the 60th, which he joined in the Weſt Indies about the year 1791, and afterwards ſucceeded to the lieutenant-colonelcy. During the late war he was made a brigadier-general, and ſeveral times highly diſtinguiſhed himſelf in various actions with the French and brigands, and was two or three times wounded. About three years ago his majeſty was pleaſed to appoint him governor of Dominica, an office which, from his military talents, great humanity, and knowledge of mankind, he was eminently qualified to fill. At the brevet promotions ſome months ago, he got the rank of major-general. While in Gibraltar, he married the daughter of Colonel Phipps, of the royal engineers, by whom he has ſeveral children.

PRESERVATIVE *againſt the* FLY *in* TURNIPS.

Communicated by J. Blunt, Eſq. of Wallop, to Arthur Young, Eſq.

THIS preſervative is no other than ſowing a ſmall quantity of buck-wheat with the turnip. In 1803 he ſowed upon

pared and burnt land a buſhel of buck-wheat, and two pounds of turnip-ſeed per acre; and letting the buck-wheat ſtand for a crop, he mowed it for ſeed, and obſerved in the ſtubble a full crop of turnips untouched by the fly; though upon the ſame land, pared and burnt alſo, and ſown at the ſame time, but without buck-wheat, the turnips were utterly deſtroyed by the fly.

Conceiving, from this trial, that the buck-wheat had proved a preſervative from the enemy, he repeated the experiment in 1804, with only a peck an acre of buck-wheat, the plants being cut up in hoeing the turnips. Wherever the buck-wheat was ſown, the turnips eſcaped the fly, and proved as fine as any in the country, though others were eaten in the adjoining piece. Mr. Blunt intends repeating the experiment next year with various quantities of buck-wheat ſeed, in order to diſcover the ſmalleſt quantity that will ſecure a crop.

The following obſervations are added by Mr. Young:—Of all the recipes for preventing the fly, this ſeems to me the moſt promiſing. The plants, from a peck an acre (and a ſmaller quantity may probably do), would not form any material obſtacle to hoeing the crop. It is cheap, ſimple, and if it ſhould, in repetitions, prove effective, it will be an important diſcovery.

REFLECTION.

M. DUMOULIN, an excellent French phyſician, ſaid on his death-bed, "I leave behind me two moſt powerful remedies, diet and exerciſe." Theſe remedies are certainly moſt powerful ones to the man who has not debaſed his frame by his vices and his follies, and made it neceſſary for him often to apply for the aſſiſtance of thoſe who have made the diſeaſes of the body their particular ſtudy.

Anſwer, by Recluſe, of Awliſcombe, to a Query, inſerted Dec. 10.

IN the Entertainer for the above date, an old correſpondent wiſhes to be informed if his ſpectacles are to be conſidered as one or two windows: the act ſays "when a partition, or a diviſion, between two or more windows, fixed in one frame, is of the breadth of twelve inches, the window on each ſide ſhall be charged as a diſtinct window."

Now I ſuppoſe the diſtance between the two glaſſes is not quite twelve inches, but "every window extending ſo far as to give light into more rooms, landings, or ſtories than one, ſhall be charged as ſo many ſeparate windows;" therefore, unleſs the gentleman is blind is one eye, his ſpectacles muſt be conſidered as two windows.

Anſwer, by T. Prout, of Mevagiſſey, to J. Channon's Rebus, inſerted Feb. 4.

ELIJAH in a CHARIOT, Sir,
The ſacred word is true,
Was drawn by fiery ſteeds to Heaven,
And bade this world, adieu!

*** We have received the like anſwer from G. Hann, jun. of Stoke Abbot; W. Mann, of Aſhburton; T. Adey, and J. B. B. of Poole; and R. Trewavas, of Mouſehole.

Anſwer, by J. Ninnis, of St. Auſtell, to T. Prout's Charade, inſerted February 4.

COURTSHIP your charade will tell,
Untill you write again, farewell!

☞ We have received the like anſwer from T. Adey, and J. B. B. of Poole; Adrianus; W. Mann, of Aſhburton; and G. Hann, jun. of Stoke Abbot.

Anſwer, by W. Mann, of Aſhburton, to T. Jarvis's Charade, inſerted February 11.

IN the poor LUNATICK we ſee
A flood of human miſery.

*** We have received ſimilar anſwers from T. Adey, of Poole; Thomas Whicker, of Exeter; and W. Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton.

A REBUS, *by J. B. Bloomfield, of Poole.*

TO find my firſt, ingenious youths,
A fruit you muſt declare;
And then a city muſt be found
To make my next appear;
Now thirdly, bards, you muſt produce,
What ladies always wear;
And laſtly find, ye youths of fame,
A place in Dorſetſhire.
Join th' initials, Sirs, aright,
A female's name they'll ſhew,
With whom I often take delight
To walk abroad and view.

A CHARADE, *by T. Rutger, of Clowance.*

WHILE winter reigns, cold and ſevere,
And Borean tempeſts howling near,
Rob nature of thoſe charms diſplay'd
When in my firſt ſhe ſtands array'd;
Still in my next I'll ſeek content,
The greateſt gift, kind Heaven! has ſent:
Or in my whole, where nature's charms,
Secluded ſtill from wintry ſtorms,
Do to my raptur'd boſom bring
The pleaſures of eternal ſpring,
There will I ſeek each fond delight,
To pleaſe or gratify the ſight,
'Till time revolving uſhers in the morn,
And greeting hails the gay Vertumnus born.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

The WHYM *of the* MOMENT: *A* SONG.

Compoſed and ſung at a Meeting of the Committee of Management of the Taviſtock Canal by a Member of the Committee.

SOME ſing of love, and ſome of wine, and ſome of hares and hounds, Sirs;
In ſhort, of every object which in this great world abounds, Sirs;
My forward muſe muſt needs appear in ſtrains original, Sirs;
And therefore ſhall her burden be the Taviſtock Canal, Sirs.
Row, dow, dow.

Could our forefathers quit their *ſhafts*, and ſee this day what goes on,
And hear of *locks*, and *quays*, and *docks*, they'd ſwear themſelves impos'd on;
Deſigns ſo vaſt ne'er poz'd their brains, nor dar'd conceive their ſouls, Sirs,
That wondrous project now *afloat*, the Taviſtock Canal, Sirs, &c.

In ancient days of enterprize, when glory dwelt in Greece, Sirs,
Young Jaſon and the Argonauts* obtain'd the golden fleece, Sirs;
With Ruſſelt for our Jaſon now, we truſt our efforts ſhall, Sirs,
Be crown'd with like ſucceſs upon the Taviſtock Canal, Sirs, &c.

Soon may the laurell'd *bark* of peace reviſit Europe's ſhore, Sirs;
Nor war's impetuous *torrent* drown a ſuffering world no more, Sirs;
That agriculture, commerce, manufactures, arts, and all, Sirs,
In proſperity may *flow* with the Taviſtock Canal, Sirs, &c.

But ſhould imperious Bonaparte attempt to *paddle* over
The little narrow *aqueduct* that *dams* him out from Dover;
If treacherous Neptune *ſteer* him thro' Great Britain's *wooden walls*, Sirs,
We'll *tunnel* him head and ears into the Taviſtock, Canal, Sirs, &c.

Perſeverando‖ then, purſue the *courſe* you've juſt begun, Sirs,
And *drive* induſtry's certain *wheal* 'till all the work be done, Sirs;
Then *mines* of wealth ſhall pay you in rich *lodes* of *minerals*, Sirs,
And fortune ſtand the *pilot* of the Taviſtock Canal, Sir, &c.

* In alluſion to the figures on the ſeal of the company, and to the arms of Taviſtock.
† His grace of Bedford, lord of the manor, and patron of the undertaking.
‖ The company's motto.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

TO SLEEP.

THROW, balmy ſleep! thy mantle o'er me,
And take me to thy guardian care;
O come, the ſweets of peace reſtore me,
And lull the torments of deſpair.

I long have felt this fond affection,
And long eſſay'd my faith to prove;
But vain has been my ſoul's dejection,
And vain the ardour of my love.

The careleſs nymph has ſpurn'd my ſorrow,
And mock'd the burthen of my woes;

Nor

Nor can my mind from fancy borrow
One hope to ſeal my loſt repoſe.

Attend then, gentle ſleep! attend me,
Abſorb my thoughts, my grief diſpel;
O come, thy ſoothing influence lend me,
And lock me in thy magic ſpell.

COLIN.

March, 1805.

WOMAN.

EARTH's direſt plagues alight on them
Who yet arraign their parent ſtem;
In Adam, who the love condemn
Of woman!

O! for the ſoul-ſeducing eyes!
O! for the heart's ecſtatic ſighs!
The magic of the mind, that lies
In woman!

Avaunt complaint, while charms like theſe
Thro' youth's delightful circle pleaſe;
Tho' ſickneſs prey, or age may ſeize
On woman.

Scarcely our vernal tranſports paſt,
Pleaſure's ſweet dawn is overcaſt,
Thoſe tranſports why expect to laſt
In woman?

Give but the ſex, endearing taſk!
Love's kindling glance, without the maſk,
And feeling heart—'tis all I aſk
Of woman.

While theſe thro' time's tempeſtuous day
Shall kindly beam a gladd'ning ray,
An angel on man's dreary way
Seems woman.

Earth's direſt plagues alight on them
Who yet arraign their parent ſtem;
In Adam, who the love condemn
Of woman.

Victims of miſanthropic woe,
Be their's, in no kind hour to know
All the dear charities that flow
From woman.

Around their knees nor children cling,
Renew'd in age life's blooming ſpring;
Nor to their arms, on love's ſoft wing,
Haſte woman.

Long on the bed of anguiſh laid,
The wearied pulſe at laſt decay'd,
There may they mourn the needed aid
Of woman.

Ah! then, that bitter ſcene to cheer,
Be no bright conſolation near:
There never drop the ſoothing tear
Of woman.

While pilgrim in this vale below,
Hope not unſullied joys to know:
Enough, if man's beſt pleaſures flow
From woman!

T. P.